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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS
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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK Junior

COWABUNGA!

A new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie hits the big screen **p20**

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS





This week's big news

HISTORIC LEADER

The only woman to serve as prime minister of Israel was Golda Meir, who led from 1969–1974.



Protesters in Jerusalem, Israel

Israel fact file



- **POPULATION:** 9.1 million
- **LANGUAGES:** Hebrew, Arabic
- **MONEY:** Shekel
- **LOCATION:** Shares a border with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt
- **SIZE:** 8,522 square miles (about the size of New Jersey)
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Borders the Mediterranean Sea, with highlands in the north and desert in the south

Law escalates protests in Israel

Hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets in Israel to protest a new law passed by the parliament (similar to Congress). The law, passed on July 24, weakens the nation's Supreme Court (highest court), and protesters say it gives the prime minister and other leaders too much power.

What is happening?

Israel's prime minister (similar to a President), Benjamin Netanyahu, announced months ago that he wanted to overhaul Israel's court system. Every weekend after that, as many as 500,000 people held demonstrations in major cities to protest the idea. Despite the protests, the first of several laws intended to change the courts went up for a vote in parliament, which is called the Knesset, and passed by a vote of 64–0. Supporters voted in favor of it, and lawmakers who were opposed walked out in protest and didn't vote. After it passed, protests became more intense. Demonstrators blocked highways for hours and clashed with police. Police have used powerful water hoses to disperse crowds of people blocking roads and have made dozens of arrests. About 1,000 military reservists (citizens who are called to

duty if the military needs troops) have resigned in protest, and thousands more have threatened to do the same. Employees in many professions have threatened to stop working, and businesses have closed to show their support.

How is Israel's government structured?

Israel was created as a Jewish state in 1948 and, like the US, has three main parts to its government. The first is the executive branch, which is led by the prime minister. The second is a legislative branch made up of elected officials who make laws. This branch includes the Knesset, which is currently controlled by a majority of officials in Netanyahu's party. The third part is the judiciary. It includes the Supreme Court, which has 15 judges. Until this new law was passed, the Supreme Court had the power to overturn laws made by the Knesset that the judges considered "unreasonable."



Benjamin Netanyahu

What is the significance of the new law?

The new law takes away the Supreme Court's ability to reverse laws. Netanyahu and his supporters believe that the voters who elected them do not share the same beliefs as the judges on the court. They think the court should have to

follow the will of the people. But millions of Israelis fear the law will damage the independence of the courts and the nation's democracy (a government in which the people choose their leaders).

How have people reacted?

The US, an ally of Israel, expressed concern over the law and urged members of parliament to reach a compromise. Eliad Shrager, who leads a group that is fighting the law, said the court is "an extremely important tool" against government corruption (use of a position of power for political or personal gain). One protester told *The Guardian*, "The government's not paying attention to the people." Those in favor of the court overhaul were pleased. "We have taken a first step in a historic process of fixing the country's justice system," said Yariv Levin, Israel's justice minister.

What will happen next?

Many opponents said they will continue to protest the law, and some shouted, "We will never give up." The Supreme Court said it will meet in September to consider overturning the law, which could create a political crisis in the nation. Netanyahu said the Knesset will discuss the law in October, when it meets next, and will try to "reach a compromise agreement on everything."



Torch for 2024 Games revealed

On July 25, the International Olympic Committee unveiled the torch for the 2024 Summer Olympics and Paralympics in Paris, France. It was inspired by the themes of the 2024 Games: equality, water, and peacefulness.

In keeping with Olympic tradition, the torch will be lit in Greece, where the ancient Olympics first occurred. It will travel by boat to France. Starting on May 8, 2024, it will be carried across the nation by 10,000 people in a torch relay. On July 26, it will be used to light the Olympic cauldron at the Opening Ceremony in Paris. Two weeks later, the torch will be lit in the UK and return to France. After being carried by 1,000 people, it will light the cauldron at the Paralympics Opening Ceremony on August 28.

The torch's designer, Mathieu Lehanneur (below right), said creating it was a once-in-a-lifetime dream. The torch has a symmetrical design, which represents the equal importance of the Olympics and Paralympics. A wavy section symbolizes water and Paris's famous Seine river. A round shape and gentle curves represent peace.



Holding the new torch



Eating vegetables is good for people and the planet.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021, about 4% of Americans identified as vegetarian or vegan, and 63% were making efforts to eat less red meat.

New study on plant-based eating

An extensive new study has found that plant-based diets are significantly better for the environment than meat-based ones. Eating less meat could make as much difference as taking millions of cars off the road, researchers found.

Food production has a major impact on the environment. It creates up to a third of the world's emissions of greenhouse gases (gases that stay in Earth's atmosphere and trap heat, warming the planet). Food production also uses large amounts of water and land, creates pollution, and harms wildlife. Previous research has shown that meat and dairy products have a larger impact than plant-based foods, such as vegetables and grains.

In the most detailed study yet of how diets affect the planet, scientists at Oxford University in the UK estimated the environmental effects of the food eaten by more than 55,000 people.

Some were meat eaters, while others ate fish or followed a vegetarian or vegan diet.

Diets without meat produced 75% fewer emissions and caused less harm to land, water, and wildlife. People who ate less than 50 grams of meat per day (about 1.7 ounces or two slices of deli meat) caused half as many emissions as people who ate more than 100 grams of meat a day (about 3.5 ounces or a big burger).

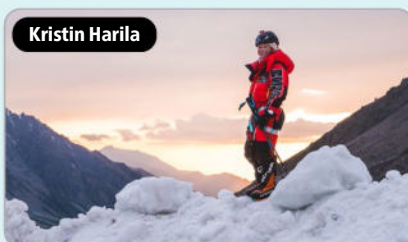
For those who want to move toward a plant-based diet, experts suggest cutting out meat and dairy for one day a week, then increasing the number of meatless meals over time. There is another benefit to eating more plant-based foods. As food writer Melissa Clark wrote in *The New York Times* after the research was revealed, "Limiting meat and dairy makes room on your plate for all kinds of other delicious things."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

SMASHING A RECORD

Kristin Harila, a 37-year-old from Norway, and her guide Tenjin Sherpa, 35, climbed the world's 14 tallest mountains in a record three months and one day. The previous record, set in 2019, was six months and seven days.



Kristin Harila

A ROADSIDE RETURN

Nearly five years after it was toppled by a hurricane, Georgia's Big Peanut has been rebuilt. The roadside attraction is nearly 40 feet tall and honors state farmers, who grow more than 50% of US peanuts. "It represents home," a local official said.



The Big Peanut

A GENEROUS DONATION

Superstar Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson made a sizable donation to help fellow film and TV actors who have been on strike since July 14. The amount of Johnson's gift was not announced publicly, but it was at least \$1 million. It will provide emergency funds to actors who are struggling to pay their bills.



Dwayne "the Rock" Johnson



DID YOU KNOW?

At about 1,900 miles in length, the Rio Grande is the fifth longest river in North America.

An aerial view of the barriers in the Rio Grande river

Who is Greg Abbott?



Greg Abbott, age 65 (pictured above), was elected the 48th governor of Texas in 2014. He grew up in Texas and previously held several positions in the state, including district judge, Supreme Court justice, and attorney general (top law enforcement officer). He is currently serving his third term as governor.

US and Texas at odds over migrants

The US Department of Justice (DOJ, the nation's top law enforcement agency) has filed a legal dispute against the state of Texas over its treatment of migrants (people who move from one place to another). Tens of thousands of migrants try to cross Mexico's border to get to the US every year, which is illegal.

What led to the lawsuit?

Earlier this year, Texas built a 1,000-foot-long chain of floating barriers in the Rio Grande, a river that serves as a border between the US and Mexico. Texas said the barriers would decrease the number of migrants who swim across the river and try to enter the country. The installation is part of Operation Lone Star, a campaign launched by Governor Greg Abbott to reduce

illegal immigration. In addition to the barriers, Texas placed razor wire along the riverbanks to deter migrants from crossing the border.

What did the lawsuit say?

The DOJ said the barriers are illegal because they violate the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act, a US law that bans the placement of structures in waterways without permission from the federal government. The DOJ also said the barriers pose a threat to public safety and the environment and could interfere with the government's ability to carry out its official duties. Mexico has also complained to the US about the structures.

How have people reacted?

Abbott, a Republican, blamed the policies of President Joe Biden, a Democrat, for the high

number of migrants who are trying to enter the country by crossing the Rio Grande. He said the lawsuit filed by the DOJ was "not grounded in law." White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Texas's actions were "dangerous and unlawful." Justine Ochoa, an activist who works on behalf of migrants in Texas, said people may end up trying to cross more dangerous sections of the river to avoid the barriers.

What will happen next?

Even before the DOJ filed the lawsuit against Texas, Abbott said the barriers would remain and the state would fight the federal government on the issue. "Texas will see you in court," he said. The barriers will stay in place until a court rules on whether they are legal.



WORD OF THE WEEK

BENEFIT

The word "benefit" began with the Latin *benefactum*, meaning "a good deed," which itself is based on *bene* ("well") and *facere* ("to do"). This sense of a kind act was the word's original meaning in English, before it took on its modern meaning of an advantage or gain. A close relative is a "benefactor," someone who helps a person or cause.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

August 12, 1851

Singer sewing machine patented

On August 12, 1851, Isaac Singer received a patent for a sewing machine he invented, giving him the exclusive right to make and sell it. After repairing one at work, he was inspired to make his own for use in factories. A few years later, he made a home sewing machine. In 1858, more than 3,000 Singer machines were sold. In 1913, 3 million were sold. Today, Singer is the world's top-selling sewing machine company.



An early Singer sewing machine



Cooling off in Washington, DC

Actions taken to help with heat

The US is taking new steps to protect workers, including those who work outdoors, from extreme heat. The actions are needed, officials said, because 40% of Americans have faced heat advisories due to the summer's high temperatures. The new measures include making weather forecasts more accurate, increasing access to drinking water and cooling centers, and creating an alert to quickly notify people when temperatures are rising.



A plane's restroom sign

Airline to add Braille to planes

United Airlines is the first major airline to add Braille to signs on its planes. Braille, a system of raised dots that can be read with fingers, is used by people who are blind or have low vision. Rows, seat numbers, and restrooms will be indicated in Braille so more passengers can navigate planes independently, said the airline, which expects to change the signs on all its planes within three years.



Beenie Von Weenie

Speediest dachshund named

Beenie Von Weenie, a 2-year-old dachshund, ran a 50-yard sprint in 6.8 seconds, beating out about 100 other dachshunds to win the "Fastest Wiener Dog in the West" title. The race was part of the 26th Wienerschnitzel Wiener Nationals in Los Alamitos, California. His owner, Nicolee Leonard, said he won because she encouraged him to run toward her socks. "He loves my socks," she told ABC7.



President Joe Biden hands a pen to a Till family member on July 25.

PUBLIC HONOR
A 9-foot-tall bronze statue of Emmett Till was installed in Greenwood, Mississippi, in 2022.

Monument to honor Till family

President Joe Biden has established a new national monument in honor of Emmett Till and his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley. Till was a 14-year-old Black boy who was killed by two white men in 1955. His death, and his mother's efforts afterward to get justice for her son, helped inspire the civil rights movement.

Till, who was from Chicago, Illinois, was visiting relatives in Mississippi in August 1955 when Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, abducted and killed him and threw his body into the Tallahatchie River. An all-white jury found Bryant and Milam not guilty, but the men later admitted to the crime.

After Till's death, his mother insisted on having an open casket at his funeral, which was attended by more than 50,000 people, to "let the people see" what had been done to her son. Till-Mobley later visited more than 30 cities telling Emmett's story.

The proclamation declaring the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument was signed by Biden on July 25, on what would have been Till's 82nd birthday. Till-Mobley died in 2003.

The monument will consist of three sites, the proclamation said. One is the Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago, where Till's funeral was held. The other two are in Mississippi.

One is outside the town of Glendora, where Till's body was pulled out of the river. The other is the courthouse in Sumner where the trial was held. Protecting these sites is important because history shouldn't be hidden, Biden said at the signing ceremony. "We should know everything: the good, the bad, the truth of who we are as a nation."

The Reverend Wheeler Parker Jr., Till's cousin who saw him being abducted, said at the ceremony, "Back then in the darkness, I could never imagine the moment like this, standing in the light of wisdom, grace, and deliverance."



Emmett Till, age 14, with his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Falcon rescued from inside Maine toy store" UPI





Around the world



A rally in the capital



Niamey, Niger

Military forces seize government control

Military forces in Niger, the largest country in West Africa, have overthrown its democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, and installed General Abdourahmane Tchiani in his place. Protesters for and against the action clashed afterward in the capital city, Niamey. Burkina Faso and Mali, two other West African countries, supported the change, while many nations in Africa and around the world called for Bazoum to be reinstated.



Amsterdam, the Netherlands

City limits visitors

Officials in Amsterdam banned cruise ships from the city center to limit the number of visitors to the Dutch capital and to curb pollution. Amsterdam is a popular tourist destination, and more than 100 cruise ships stop there each year. The city has not banned all cruise ships and plans to relocate the central cruise terminal to a less populated area.



Cruise ships will be limited.



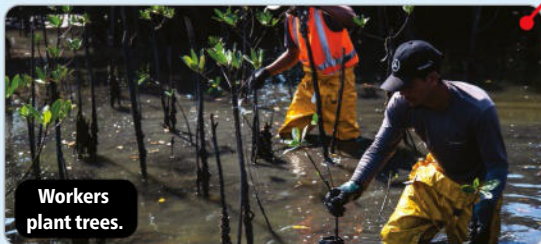
The Panama Canal



Panama Canal, Panama

Drought causes canal to restrict traffic

The Panama Canal is imposing restrictions on ship traffic after a prolonged drought (severe lack of rain) lowered water levels along the route. The canal has reduced the maximum weight ships can carry as well as the number of ships that can pass through each day, from 35 or 36 to an average of 32. The restrictions could affect the quantity of goods that can be shipped around the world.



Workers plant trees.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Trash dump turns into forest

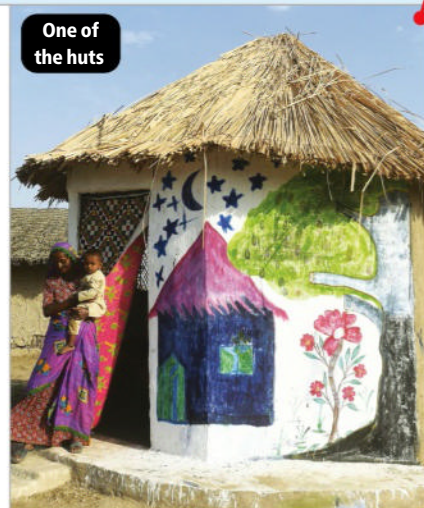
A former dump has been transformed into a mangrove forest. Over 44 years, nearly 80 million tons of garbage was dumped at the site. It was closed in 2012, and workers covered it with clay and planted mangrove trees. Mangroves capture carbon dioxide (a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere and contributes to climate change). Birds, crabs, and fish now live in the forest.



Sindh province, Pakistan

Rebuilding after floods

A year after severe floods damaged or destroyed 900,000 homes, an organization called the Heritage Foundation of Pakistan is helping villagers rebuild by erecting one-bedroom huts. The homes cost less than \$90 each and are built on raised platforms to make them resistant to future floods. The materials being used, including bamboo (a fast-growing wood), are also good for the environment.



One of the huts





A Baltic beach



Liepaja, Latvia Beaches close down

An accident at a sewage treatment plant caused beaches along more than 60 miles of coastline to be temporarily closed. Sewage leaked into the Baltic Sea after a wall collapsed at the plant, which is situated near the beach. Tons of waste reportedly flowed into the sea. Local authorities said that repairs made overnight stopped the leak.



People in facekinis



Beijing, China “Facekinis” provide sun protection

A stylish and practical trend is taking off as temperatures soar above 95° F in the Chinese capital. The facekini—a full face mask covering the wearer’s head and neck, with holes for the eyes, nose, and mouth—was invented in 2004 by an accountant, Zhang Shifan, to protect swimmers from jellyfish stings. Today, people are wearing the facekini in the record heat to prevent their skin from being damaged by the sun.



Japan’s population is getting older.



Japan Population drops for 14th year in a row

Although the number of foreign residents in Japan rose in 2022, the number of Japanese citizens dropped. Overall, the total population, which has now declined for 14 straight years, fell by more than 500,000 people last year because there were more deaths than births. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called the trend a crisis and has warned that the low birth rate threatens Japan’s ability to function as a society.



Hun Sen



Cambodia Leader to step down

Prime Minister Hun Sen announced that he will resign on August 10 and hand over power to his son, Hun Manet. Since coming to power 40 years ago, Hun Sen has become increasingly authoritarian (demanding strict obedience to the government). He won re-election on July 23, but critics called the vote unfair because the main opposition party was prevented from running.



Sydney Harbour, Australia Seahorses get a boost

More than 350 young White’s seahorses have been released into Sydney Harbour to replenish the declining population on Australia’s east coast. The seahorses were raised in captivity by Sydney Seahorse Project and set free wearing tags that will monitor their growth. Biodegradable “seahorse hotels” were also installed in the harbor to provide habitats and help keep the seahorses safe.



A White’s seahorse



The big debate

Should clean air be a human right?

Air pollution is dangerous. Many people think laws should do more to prevent it.

What you need to know

- Human rights are rights that all people have, including freedom, safety, work, education, and life.
- In 2022, the United Nations (a group of 193 countries) declared clean air a human right. This isn't a law, but many countries want to make it one.
- Air pollution is created by cars and trucks, factories, and power plants.
- Air pollution is very harmful to people's health and affects children, people with lower incomes, and people of color the most.



In the US, the national Clean Air Act, which was created in 1970, and several state environmental laws have helped improve air quality across the nation. But air pollution is still a problem, and many people say these laws aren't sufficient. When they're broken by the government or corporations, it's hard for citizens to do anything about it. Human rights laws, however, can be more powerful. If clean air were legally declared a human right, people could protect themselves and the planet in a more effective way. Others say existing laws are good enough and the government shouldn't force change. What do you think? Should clean air be a human right?

Yes—clean air saves lives and money

Nearly 120 million Americans live in areas with high levels of air pollution. That's an indication that current US laws aren't doing the job—we need to send a stronger message by making clean air a legal human right. The US government, state and local leaders, and businesses have to do more. Stronger laws would help millions of people, including kids, who suffer from asthma, heart conditions, and other diseases. Air pollution has a huge economic effect too. It causes sick people to miss work, makes businesses less productive, and harms crops. That money is better spent fighting air pollution and helping the planet.

No—that's not the right approach

Trying to force change by making a new law isn't going to work. Many countries already recognize the right to a clean environment, including the right to breathe clean air, but many still have very polluted air. It takes a lot of money and time for government and business leaders to change their practices to reduce air pollution, and forcing them to do it won't speed up the process. If people want to see real change, they need to adapt their own behavior. They can drive less, buy local products that didn't travel across the country, use alternative energy like solar and wind, and support companies that use renewable energy.

YES

Three reasons why clean air should be a human right

- 1 A human rights law is more powerful and would send an important message that polluting the air must stop.
- 2 Stronger laws would help kids and others who are unfairly affected by air pollution.
- 3 Cleaning up the air would save a great deal of money, which would be better used helping the planet.

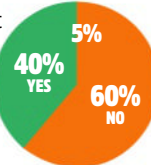
NO

Three reasons why clean air should not be a human right

- 1 Other countries recognize the right to clean air, but that hasn't solved their problems.
- 2 Forcing leaders to reduce air pollution won't work because it still takes a lot of time and money to make it happen.
- 3 People can help by changing their habits and activities and spending their money with companies that make greener choices.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if tipping has gotten out of control. More than half of you said no, it's not a problem that people are being asked to tip more these days.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think clean air should be a human right or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Giving their perspective

Erika Young and Norah Weiner, both age 13 from San Francisco, California, have been named the middle school winners of the Student Podcast Challenge sponsored by National Public Radio (NPR). Their podcast, *Middle School Now*, was recognized for addressing topics facing young people. Weiner and Young spoke to *The Week Junior* about their experience.

What inspired your podcast?

Erika Young: We wanted to tell adults how middle school has changed from when they were our age in a way where they would just listen. Then our teacher encouraged us to make a podcast to enter in the NPR contest.

How did you create it?

Norah Weiner: We chose the topic of school lockdown drills. Then we wrote an outline and a script, and we recorded it on my phone in our teacher's classroom.

How did it feel to win?

Weiner: It's pretty cool. I'm still wrapping my mind around it because I did not expect it. We want to create more episodes about things specific to middle school.



What other topics do you want to cover in your podcast?

Young: For our next one, we'd like to cover mental health. I would like to hear kids talking about it because kids have different opinions than adults. Kids who live in other states may feel the same as me even though we're in different parts of the country.

What advice do you have for other middle schoolers?

Weiner: I never entered contests because I thought there's no way I would win. This was the first contest I ever entered, and I actually won. So if you want something, you should always at least try. It's the only way you will have a chance to succeed, and the worst that can happen is that you tried.



Norah Weiner and Erika Young

DID YOU KNOW?
There are a total of 16,264 public middle schools in the US.

An officer's new role

Edward Caban was sworn in as the 46th police commissioner of the New York Police Department on July 17, becoming the first Latino to hold the top position in the NYPD's 178-year history. Caban, age 55, is from the Bronx, New York, and is of Puerto Rican descent. He joined the NYPD in 1991 and has said that his father, a former transit officer, inspired him to become a police officer. At his swearing-in ceremony, Caban offered thanks to his dad, who was standing next to him.



Edward Caban

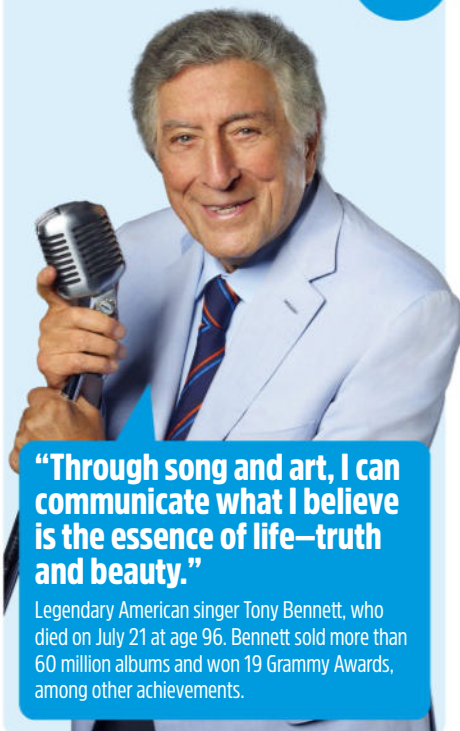


Kristen Kish

Top spot for top chef

The popular cooking competition TV show *Top Chef* has announced that Kristen Kish, one of the show's former winners, will be its next host. She will replace Padma Lakshmi, who hosted the show for 19 of its 20 seasons. Kish, age 39, was born in South Korea and grew up in Michigan. She won *Top Chef* in 2013 and has since been a guest judge. Kish, who owns the restaurant Arlo Grey in Texas and hosted Nat Geo's *Restaurants at the End of the World* show, will begin her hosting duties with season 21, set to air in 2024. "I am eager to get started!" she told *The New York Times*.

OVERHEARD



"Through song and art, I can communicate what I believe is the essence of life—truth and beauty."

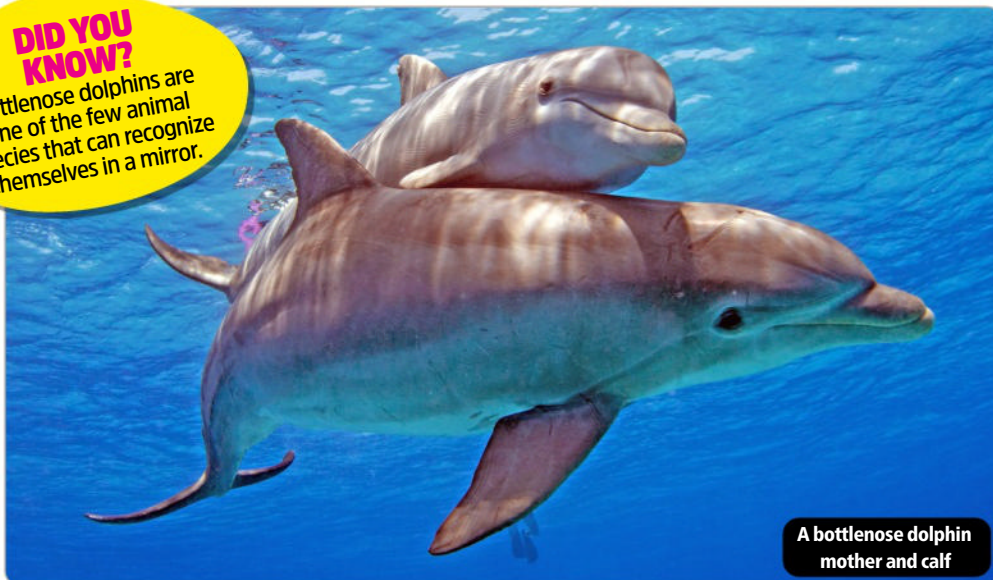
Legendary American singer Tony Bennett, who died on July 21 at age 96. Bennett sold more than 60 million albums and won 19 Grammy Awards, among other achievements.



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

Bottlenose dolphins are one of the few animal species that can recognize themselves in a mirror.



A bottlenose dolphin mother and calf

More animal voices

Orangutans can produce two separate sounds at once, similar to how humans beatbox, a study suggests. Male orangutans in Borneo were heard producing “chomp” noises at the same time as “grumbles” before fights. Females in Indonesia made “kiss squeak” sounds along with “rolling calls” to warn of danger.



An orangutan

Dolphin moms use “baby talk”

Humans often use “baby talk” when communicating with young children, speaking in higher-pitched, sing-song voices. This style of speech is also called “parentese.” However, a new study has found that we aren’t the only species who do this. Female bottlenose dolphins also make higher-pitched sounds when they are communicating with their calves (babies).

Bottlenose dolphins communicate using whistling and clicking noises. Each dolphin has a whistle that is unique to them, called a “signature whistle.” Signature whistles are used by dolphins to

identify each other, just as humans use names. These whistles develop during the first few months of the dolphin’s life. Dolphins can also copy the whistles of other dolphins as a way to communicate.



Zebra finches sing differently to chicks.

The study used microphones, which were attached to the dolphins with suction cups, to analyze the signature whistles of 19 adult female dolphins in waters near Sarasota Bay, Florida. The whistles the dolphins made were recorded over a 34-year period. This included times

when the dolphins had calves with them and times when they did not. The researchers found that when the dolphins were with their calves,

they produced a much wider range of pitches and tended to whistle with a higher pitch.

The researchers are not sure exactly why dolphins—or other species, such as gorillas, monkeys, and humans—use special voices for their young. Zebra finch birds are known to use a higher pitch and sing more slowly to chicks, perhaps making it easier for the chicks to learn how to sing. For the dolphins, it could be a way for them to help their calves develop their own signature whistle or to get their attention.

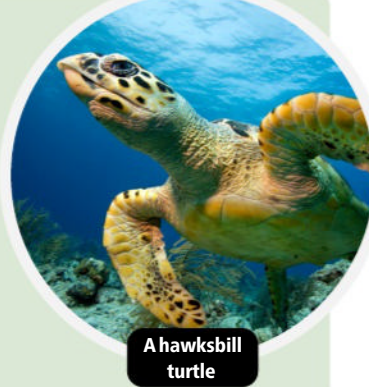
Researcher Laela Sayigh, who worked on the study, said this kind of research could even help us understand how language developed in humans. She told *New Scientist*, “It is absolutely essential to have basic knowledge about other species and how they communicate.”



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Punalu’u Beach, Hawaii

On the Big Island of Hawaii, Punalu’u Beach is covered in black sand created by hot lava exploding as it flows into the ocean and cools. The beach isn’t usually safe for swimming because of rough water, but that doesn’t bother the hawksbill turtles and Hawaiian monk seals that hang out there. Visitors can play in the sand and have a picnic under the coconut palms, then go to nearby Hawaii Volcanoes National Park to see the still-active volcanoes that helped create the beach. Find out more at lovebigisland.com/punaluu.



A hawksbill turtle



HUGE APPETITE
Elephants spend most of their time—up to 18 hours a day—eating.

African elephants have food preferences.

Elephants like a varied diet

Just as people like to eat different kinds of food for dinner each night, scientists have discovered that elephants prefer to mix up what they eat.

In a new study, researchers tracked two groups of elephants in Kenya for up to 14 months and analyzed their diets. The team estimated that the elephants ate at least 50 plant species per day. One animal was thought to have eaten 137 different plants.

The researchers found that elephants living in a group don't all eat the same food at the same time—they seem to have

their own preferences. Pregnant elephants, in particular, were spotted seeking out lots of different types of plants. Many elephants preferred to eat from trees in dry weather and fresh grasses after it rained.

The results help to explain how groups of elephants can work together to find food, since each elephant can eat a different meal rather than competing with one another over a single patch of plants. Understanding what elephants eat could also help experts improve how they care for the animals in the wild.

Animal of the week

Southern cassowary



The Australian government has released a new plan to protect cassowaries and their habitats. These colorful creatures live deep in the forests of Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea. They are some of the world's largest birds.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 18 to 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Tropical rainforests and grasslands
- **SIZE:** Up to 6 feet tall
- **DIET:** Fruits, fungi, and small animals
- **FUN FACT:** Although cassowaries cannot fly, they can jump as high as 7 feet.

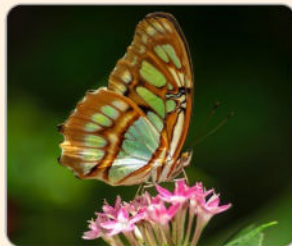


Good week / Bad week



Earless dragon

A lizard species believed to be extinct in the wild for 50 years has been rediscovered. Experts thought there were no Victorian grassland earless dragons left, except in zoos. The place where the lizards were found has been kept secret to protect them.



Butterflies

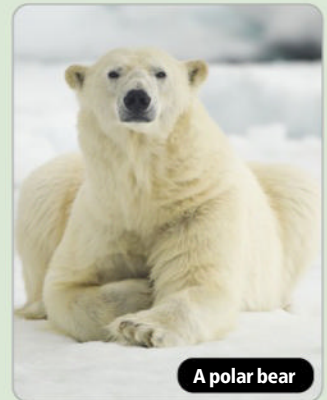
According to a global study, butterflies are being harmed by the expansion of cities. Their numbers are declining as the flowers they feed on get harder to find. Luckily, bees and other insects are still helping plants survive in cities.



“Are polar bears dangerous? If they are, how so?” Nora, 9, Illinois

Marco Wendt
Wildlife ambassador,
San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Polar bears are dangerous to humans who approach them. They are the planet's largest land predator and have no natural enemies. Ferocious, intelligent hunters, they dine mostly on seals in the Arctic. It's always best to appreciate wildlife, especially predators, at a distance.



A polar bear

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance at sandiegozoowildlifealliance.org.

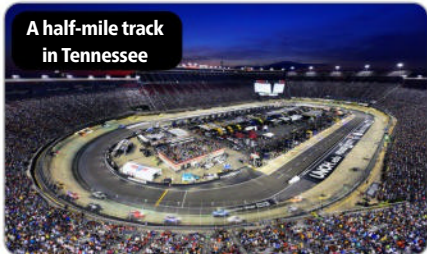


The most popular racing

NASCAR celebrates a major milestone with 75 years of stock car racing.

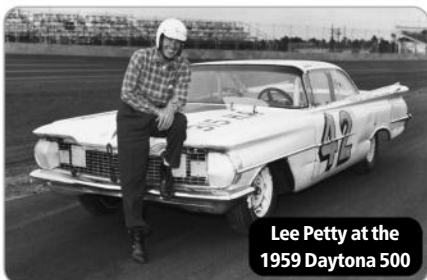
Since its start in 1948, the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) has thrilled fans with fast cars and memorable races.

A half-mile track in Tennessee



What is NASCAR?

NASCAR is a form of stock car racing that usually takes place on oval tracks between a half-mile and 2.66 miles long. Most races are 400 to 600 miles, which can be hundreds of laps around the track. Stock cars have some original (stock) items, such as the hood and roof, from the manufacturer, while the rest of the car is custom designed to race at speeds from 160 to 200 miles per hour. (Formula 1 races lighter cars that reach speeds of 230 miles per hour.) The NASCAR Cup Series season is 10 months long and includes a total of 38 races.



Lee Petty at the 1959 Daytona 500

History of NASCAR

Stock car racing became popular in the 1930s in the Southeast. But every track had different rules. In 1948, racecar promoter William France Sr., nicknamed "Big Bill," founded NASCAR to regulate the sport. Its first cup series was held in 1949. On February 22, 1959, thousands of fans attended the first Daytona 500, a 500-mile race in Florida that is still considered NASCAR's most prestigious competition. First place went to Johnny Beauchamp—but three days later, photos of the finish proved that Lee Petty had actually won.



DID YOU KNOW?

A NASCAR race typically lasts between two and four hours. The average race takes 3 hours and 8 minutes.

WOW!

The front grilles, headlights, and taillights on a NASCAR car aren't real—they're decals.

Famous drivers

Wendell Scott

In 1961, Wendell Scott, a mechanic, was the first Black driver to compete at NASCAR's highest level. In 1963, he was the first to win a race.



Janet Guthrie

An engineer for an aviation company, Janet Guthrie became the first woman to qualify and compete in the Daytona 500 in 1977. She was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame in 2019.





series in the US



FUN FACT

NASCAR is known for awarding winners novelty "trophies," like a grandfather clock, a surfboard, or a vending machine.

A race during the NASCAR Cup Series in 2022



A car sponsored by M&M's

Popularity spreads

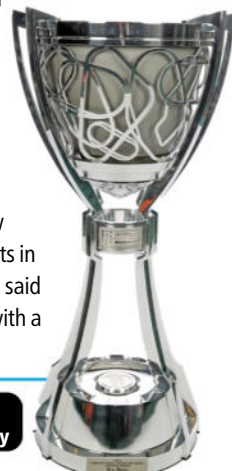
In 1972, William France Jr., "Little Bill," took over NASCAR from his father. He pursued corporate sponsorships, which expanded NASCAR's reach. To kick off the 1979 racing season, the Daytona 500 was televised live for the first time. Stock car racing began to appear more widely on TV, growing NASCAR's national and global fan base. In the 1980s and 1990s, companies such as Coca-Cola, McDonald's, and M&M's began sponsoring NASCAR cars and drivers, bringing more international attention to the sport. Today, more than 1,200 races take place annually in 30 states, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. NASCAR is now broadcast on TV in more than 29 languages in 195 countries.



A 2023 Next Gen car

Changes underway

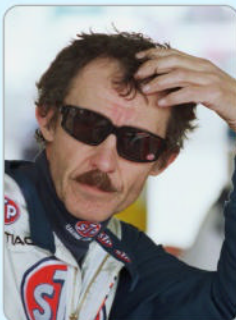
In 2022, NASCAR released a Next Generation car. It was redesigned with improved handling and technology, but drivers were getting hurt in crashes. In 2023, NASCAR added more safety features to the car, including a different bumper on the back and cooling vents on the front hood. Racing rules were also updated, including new time penalties and improved strategies in the pit, where a driver makes stops and a crew refuels the car and repairs parts in seconds. CEO Steve O'Donnell said NASCAR will introduce a car with a hybrid engine by 2024.



A classic NASCAR trophy

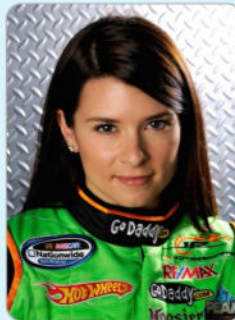
Richard Petty

Nicknamed "the King," Richard Petty, son of NASCAR legend Lee Petty, has the most NASCAR Cup Series wins with 200. In 2010, Petty was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame.



Danica Patrick

At age 10, Danica Patrick began racing go-karts. In 2012, she joined NASCAR full-time. Now retired, she was the first woman with a qualifying time for a pole position (the car that starts a race) in a cup series.





FUN FACT

Albert Einstein held a spoon while he napped. After a while, he would drop it and wake himself up.

Some people are more likely to nap than others.

Adults who nap have bigger brains

Scientists have long known that a good night's sleep is important for brain health, but now there's great news for people who like to sneak in a quick nap. A new study found that daytime naps can be good for the brain.

Researchers from University College London in the UK and the University of the Republic in Uruguay looked at small sections of people's DNA. (DNA is a chemical that carries all the information about a person's body and traits.) There are 97 sections of DNA in humans that can identify whether a person is likely to be a daytime napper or not.

The scientists used data from 35,000 people in the UK between the ages of 40 and 69. They identified people in the study whose DNA made them more likely to nap during the day and people whose DNA indicated they didn't need to nap. The team compared brain scans of the nappers with scans of the non-nappers and observed some key differences in their brains.

The results showed that those who liked to nap had larger brains than those who didn't. The brain naturally shrinks with age, so this meant that the brains of people who liked to

nap aged more slowly than people who didn't nap. The people who napped had brains that were about .9 cubic inches larger than those who didn't nap, which was equal to slowing down aging by three to six years.

Dr. Victoria Garfield, who worked on the study, said the research could help scientists understand how people can preserve the health of their brains as they get older. She added, "I hope studies such as this one showing the health benefits of short naps can help to reduce any stigma (bad impression) that still exists around daytime napping."

The researchers didn't have information about how long the naps of people in the study lasted.

Other studies, however, have suggested that naps of about 30 minutes are the most helpful for the brain. Taking a nap earlier in the day, rather than in the late afternoon, is less likely to disturb a person's sleep at night.

Garfield told the BBC news outlet that she still prefers other ways of taking care of her own brain, however. "I would rather spend 30 minutes exercising than napping," she said.



Sleep helps our brains.

Naps around the world



In Spain, the tradition of an afternoon nap, called a siesta, has been around for thousands of years. Most likely it was started to allow farmers time to cool off during the hottest part of the day. Today, office workers take a break and shops close from about 2 to 4 pm. Because they rest during the day, Spaniards typically stay up until midnight. And in some parts of Italy, people take a post-lunch nap called a *riposo*.

In Japan, people often take a quick doze on the subway or in the office. That's the practice of *inemura*, which means "sleeping while present." In China, a short nap in the office is used to boost concentration in the afternoon. Some workplaces even have nap rooms where workers can go to rest.



Extinct species of tiny penguin discovered

Scientists have discovered an extinct species of penguin that lived about 3 million years ago in New Zealand. They believe the species is an ancestor of the little penguin, the smallest penguin living today. The discovery of this new species could help scientists gain a better understanding of how seabirds evolved over millions of years.

The species was identified based on the fossils (preserved impressions or traces of ancient plants or animals) of two skulls found on the North Island of New Zealand. One belonged to an adult bird and the other belonged to a juvenile. Scientists named the species *Eudyptula wilsonae*, or Wilson's little penguin.



A modern little penguin

Because the scientists who identified Wilson's little penguin only had the skulls, they are not sure how big the bird was. They believe it was about the same size as modern-day little penguins, which typically weigh up to 2 pounds and grow up to 13.5 inches long. The skulls of the extinct species were narrower than the skulls of today's birds, which are found throughout Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

The discovery of Wilson's little penguin suggests that it may have first appeared in New Zealand. The team said little penguins have not changed much over millions of years, even though New Zealand's climate was much different so long ago.



An illustration of an extinct Wilson's little penguin

DID YOU KNOW?
On Middle Island, in Australia, sheepdogs protect little penguins from predators like foxes.



A rendering of the new city

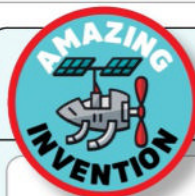
Wood city planned in Sweden

A city of 2,000 homes and 7,000 offices made of wood is planned for Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. Stockholm Wood City is the world's largest known wood construction project. It will cover about 61 acres, with cafes, restaurants, and shops.

Traditional construction materials, like concrete, are harmful to the environment. Wood, however, helps the planet because trees absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂, a greenhouse gas that gets trapped in the

atmosphere and warms the planet). That is especially true if the wood is grown in responsibly managed forests, where new trees are planted to replace old ones. Wooden buildings are very safe if they are built correctly, experts said.

Construction on Stockholm Wood City is due to start in 2025, and the first buildings should be ready in 2027. The company that is building the city said it will "make a positive difference."



A strong, reusable paper bag



Most paper bags don't last long.

Standard paper bags are easily torn or damaged by moisture, so they're often used only once. To address that, scientists have created a strong paper bag that can be reused many times before being turned into fuel.

To make the bag, a team at Penn State University in

Pennsylvania heated paper with a special process, which made it stronger, even when it was wet. To turn the bag into a biofuel (fuel made from renewable materials that won't run out) at the end of its life, they broke it down by applying a special chemical.

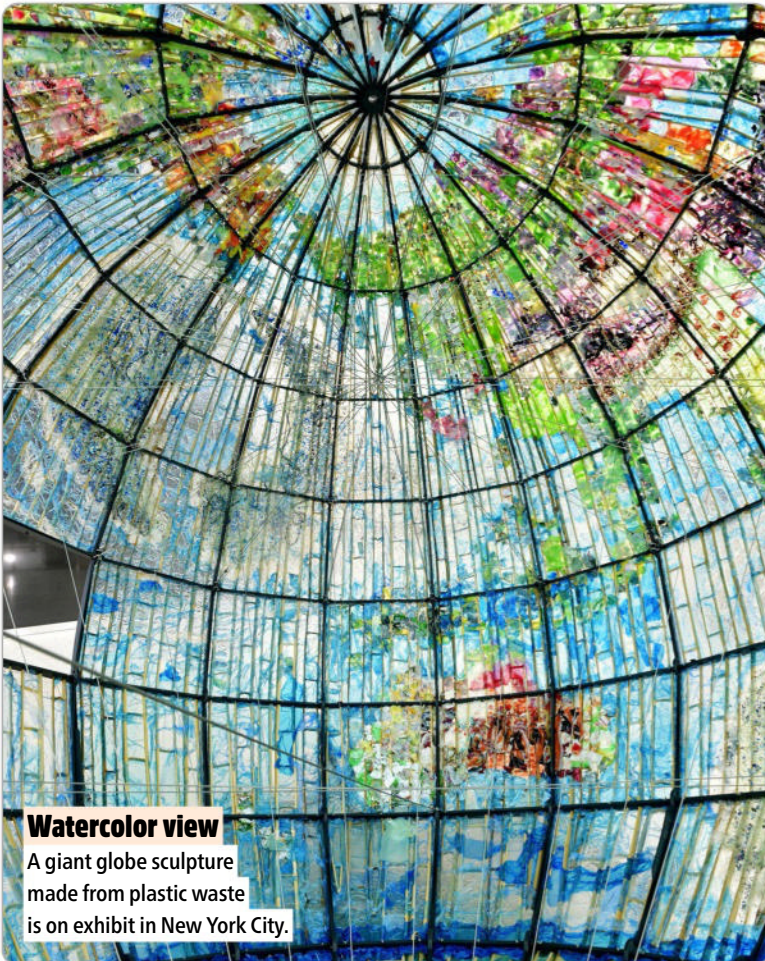
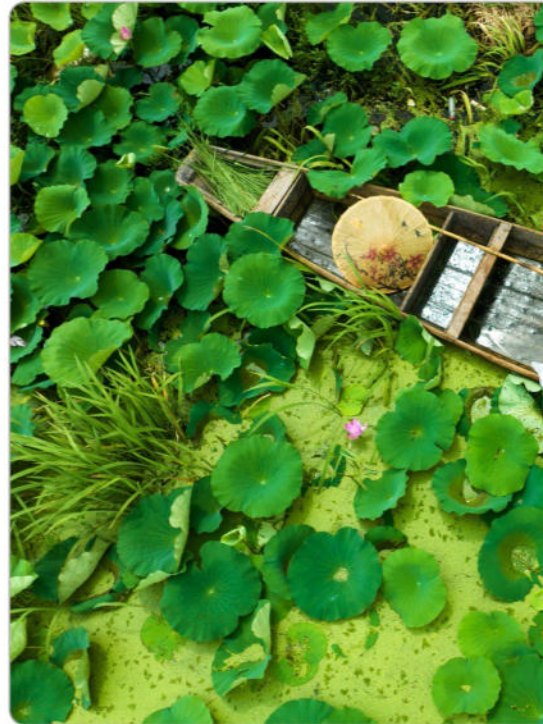


Photos of the week



Pretty on pink

A dragonfly sits on a flower at a park in Washington, DC.



Watercolor view

A giant globe sculpture made from plastic waste is on exhibit in New York City.



GETTY IMAGES (6)



Green scene

A fishing boat pushes through lotus plants on a river in China.



Round and round

Two drivers ride motorcycles around a barrel-shaped track at a festival in Wisconsin.



All together

Team Ukraine competes at an artistic swimming championship in Japan.



Golden glow

An elk stands in the mud at low tide in China.



Sports



DID YOU KNOW?
The US has made it to at least the semifinals of every Women's World Cup.

Crystal Dunn of the US and Andreia Norton of Portugal on August 1

The World Cup ball



The official match ball of the 2023 Women's World Cup is named Oceaunz. Its design was inspired by the landscape of the host region, which includes the Indian Ocean near Australia and the mountains of New Zealand. It also has patterns representing local cultures and soccer.

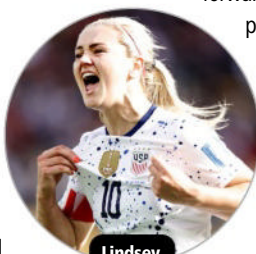
US survives World Cup group stage

The Group Stage of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand has ended, and the top two teams from each of the eight groups have advanced to the knockout stage. Among the teams that have moved on are the US, the Netherlands, England, Denmark, Australia, Nigeria, Switzerland, Norway, Japan, and Spain.

The US team, who are the two-time defending champions, have not played as well as expected in the tournament. Although they did not lose any matches, they finished in second place in Group E with a 1–0–2 record.

Coming into their final group stage match against Portugal on August 1, they needed a win

or draw (tie) to advance. The match was scoreless through the entire 90 minutes of regulation time. In the first minute of stoppage time, Portuguese forward Ana Capeta took a shot that hit the post but did not go into the goal, saving the US from defeat.



Lindsey Horan

On July 27 (July 26 in the US), a match between the US and the Netherlands, the top team in Group E, ended in a 1–1 draw.

Until then, the Americans had won 13 consecutive World Cup matches.

The game was a rematch of the 2019 Women's World Cup Final. The Netherlands opened the scoring in the 17th minute, and it became the first time since 2011 that the US women trailed in a World Cup match. Lindsey

Horan, the co-captain of the US team, delivered the crucial equalizing goal in the second half.

There have been unexpected results for other teams, too. After a 0–0 draw with Switzerland on July 30, New Zealand became the first Women's World Cup host nation to be eliminated before the knockout stage. The next day, Australia beat the defending Olympic champions, Canada, 4–0, to finish at the top of Group B. The win was an important comeback for the co-hosts, who lost to Nigeria in a shocking 3–2 upset on July 27. Nigeria finished with more points than Canada and secured second place in the group, making Canada the first reigning Olympic champion in history to leave the World Cup after the group stage.

The US is set to play its Round of 16 match on August 6 at 5am ET, likely against Sweden.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

CYCLING

Demi Vollering of the Netherlands won her first Tour de France Femmes, a seven-day bike race that ended on July 30. The 594-mile course was broken into eight stages, and Vollering finished with a combined time of 25 hours, 17 minutes, and 35 seconds.

Lotte Kopecky of Belgium placed second, and Katarzyna Niewiadoma of Poland placed third, finishing .021 of a second behind Kopecky.



Shohei Ohtani

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The Los Angeles Angels beat the Detroit Tigers in both games of a double header on July 27. Angels star Shohei Ohtani pitched the first shutout of his career in game one, and he hit two home runs in game two. It was the first time an MLB player has done both in a double header.

AUTO RACING

Formula 1 star Max Verstappen won the Belgian Grand Prix on July 30 for his eighth straight win this season.



FUN FACT

Open water swimmer Katie Grimes was the first athlete to qualify for the 2024 US Olympic team in any sport.



Katie Ledecky, left, and Ryan Murphy

Big moments for American swimmers

The Swimming World Championships were held in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 14–30. The event was the last major international meet before the Olympics in Paris, France, next summer. The US earned 38 medals, more than any other country, but only seven were gold. Australia took home 13 golds, marking the second time since the 1956 Olympics that Australia has beaten the US in the medal table at an elite international meet.

It was a historic competition for American star Katie Ledecky. On July 29, she won the 800-meter freestyle and became the first swimmer to win six golds in the same event at Worlds. It was also her 16th individual world title, which is the most any swimmer has won. She broke a 15-win record set by American Michael Phelps. On July 25, she had tied him with a win in the 1,500-meter freestyle.

The other American champions included Ryan Murphy, who earned his first-ever gold in the 100-meter backstroke on July 25. He finished with a .05-second lead. American Kate Douglass, who had earned only silver and bronze medals at the Olympics and World Championships, grabbed her first gold with a win in the 200-meter individual medley on July 24. Fellow American and defending world champion Alex Walsh took silver.

Ledecky wasn't the only swimmer to break a Phelps record at Worlds. When he retired in 2016, Phelps held five world records in individual events. On July 23, the last one fell to French swimmer Leon Marchand, who set a new world record of 4:02.50 in the 400-meter individual medley. Phelps, who was calling Marchand's race for the media, stood and cheered as he finished.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's name: **Bill Upton**

Team: **SPF Raiders (baseball)**

"When I had a different coach, I didn't feel like I was good at baseball and I wanted to quit. With Coach Bill, I like it a lot more. He says things to make us confident on the field. He lets us play different positions so we can get experience in them. I wasn't a good pitcher at the start of the season, but now I am because he gave me a chance. He also lets us bat in different places in the batting order, which lets everyone feel good about their batting." Liam, 9, New Jersey



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Addison Barnard

AGE: 21 SPORT: SOFTBALL

TEAM: WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Batter up I'm from a small town, and my friends and I played every sport together. When I was little, I always wanted to practice and play softball. I liked that it was so competitive and that it was a team sport. No matter your individual performance, the team will always have your back.

College pick I chose to play at Wichita State because it was a smaller college that competes at the highest level. The campus isn't too far from my home in Nebraska, but I still have the college experience.

Staying fit We practice almost every day and do a lot of hitting. We hit off the batting machine and do a lot of drills for more of a live situation. Practicing so much and also running around my family's farm helps keep me in shape.

Chill out It's important to take self-care days and days off. Life is so much bigger than softball, so it's okay to take a day without thinking about it.

Study time It's hard to balance softball and academics. When you're staying at a hotel during a weekend game, all you want to do is lie down. But even when you don't feel like doing homework, it's important to stay on track.

Major victory We won the 2021 conference championship. It was the best feeling in the world.

Future plans My goals after softball are to get into medical school and become a doctor.

Her advice You can accomplish more than you think. Never give up on yourself, and remember there is someone out there looking up to you.





FUN FACT

A turtle from Tonga named Tu'i Malila lived to be 188 years old.



Teenage Mutant
Ninja Turtles:
Mutant Mayhem

Turtle heroes return to the screen

The new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* film is about family, bravery, and the feelings that come with growing up.

A new film about a group of teen turtles is now playing in theaters. *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* is an animated action comedy based on characters that have been popular in comic books, TV shows, films, and video games for decades.

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (TMNT) are brothers Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo. (They share names with famous Italian Renaissance artists.) As babies, a chemical ooze turned them into human-like creatures. They

were raised in New York City sewers by mutant rat Splinter, who trains them in ninjutsu, a martial art.

In *Mutant Mayhem*, the teens want to go to a human high school and enjoy life outside the sewers, but Splinter worries they won't be accepted and says no. After the boys meet a girl named April, they enlist her help to win over humans as they stop a criminal wreaking havoc in the city.

Seth Rogen, one of *Mutant Mayhem*'s producers and writers, said it was important for the turtles to feel like relatable teens who are a bit insecure and want to fit in. Past

TMNT projects used adults to voice the brothers, but this time teens filled the roles. Co-director and co-writer Jeff Rowe told *The Week Junior*, "It felt like a way to make this version unique and emotional." They recorded as a group, which Rowe said helped the dialogue feel real. They even improvised many lines instead of using a script. The animation style used in the film was meant to look like drawings made by a teen.

Rowe, a longtime TMNT fan, said he had a goal when making the film. "It was important to me to make a superhero film that isn't about punching your way through problems but leading with your heart and being your best authentic self."



Seth Rogen

3 facts about the Turtles

Origin story

The Turtles first appeared in the 1984 comic book *TMNT #1* by Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird. The Smithsonian National Museum of American History has a copy in its collection.



The first TMNT
comic book

On screen

In 1987, the characters starred in their first animated TV series, which was written by Eastman and Laird. Since then, there have been four other TV series and six TMNT movies, including a live-action version released in 2014.



A TV series

Pet problem

In the 1980s and 1990s, TMNT fans often got red-eared slider turtles as pets. Many of the animals were later released into areas where they didn't belong, causing an environmental problem.



A red-
eared slider



Margot Robbie with Ryan Gosling in *Barbie*

GIRL POWER
The opening weekend audience for *Barbie* was about 70% female.

Barbie movie is major success

A new live-action movie based on Barbie dolls has smashed records in Hollywood. *Barbie*, directed by Greta Gerwig, opened on July 21 and earned \$162 million at the North American box office during its first three days in theaters. It had a bigger opening day and opening weekend than any other film this year. After 12 days of release around the world, the film had earned close to \$775 million. Excited moviegoers turned up at theaters dressed in Barbie's signature pink.

Typically, films with big openings are part of existing franchises, such as *Spider-Man*, *Marvel*, and *Star Wars*. Barbie is a doll that was first sold in 1959, but the movie's story, which Gerwig co-wrote, is new. In it, a series of errors leads Barbie (Margot Robbie) and Ken (Ryan Gosling) to venture out of Barbieland and into the real world, which is nothing like she imagined. The film addresses

issues such as discovering your true identity and gender roles in society. It is rated PG-13.

Barbie mania has extended beyond the movie itself. There have been Barbie collaborations with fashion brands, and Starbucks is selling a secret Barbie drink. On Google, searches related to the film come back with a pink background, and on Spotify, the film's soundtrack plays with a progress bar that is pink. HGTV, meanwhile, is airing *Barbie Dreamhouse Challenge*, a show featuring designers decorating a house in a Barbie-inspired style.

Gerwig has been thrilled by *Barbie*'s success. After the opening weekend, she said, "I'm so grateful. I'm so amazed." She spent time checking out the film at New York City movie theaters and said it was exciting "to walk around and see people in pink. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine something like this."



READER RECOMMENDS



Creeped Out TV-PG (Netflix)

"This show follows an unknown person/creature called The Curious that collects strange tales from around the world. It is an anthology series, so each episode tells a different story. They include a tale about a creature that punishes a person who terrorizes children and one about siblings who get trapped in a maze after one of them pushes all the buttons in an elevator. The acting in this show is amazingly good, and the stories just leave you wanting more. *Creeped Out* sort of reminds me of R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps*, and I definitely recommend it." Manuel, 13, Louisiana

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



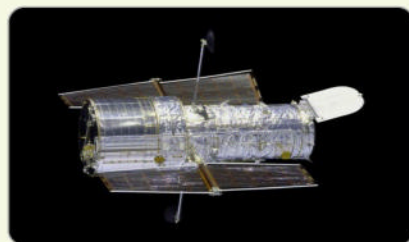
Angel City (HBO Max)

Angel City FC of the NWSL (National Women's Soccer League) played its first season in 2022, and this new three-part documentary chronicles the action on and off the field. Two of the team's stars, Julie Ertz and Alyssa Thompson, have been competing for the US at the World Cup.



High School Musical: The Musical: The Series (Disney+)

It's the final season of this series, and the East High gang is preparing a production of *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*. However, plans change when stars and crew members from the original *High School Musical* movie show up.



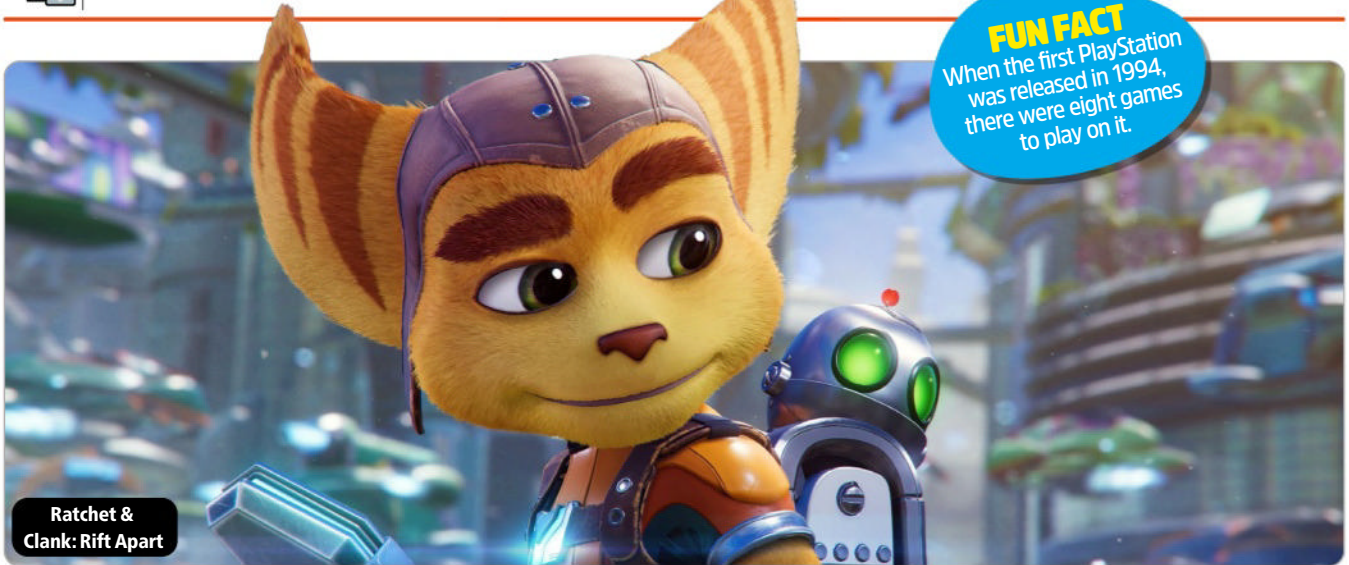
Unknown: Cosmic Time Machine (Netflix)

The James Webb Telescope, the most powerful space telescope in history, sends stunning images of distant galaxies back to Earth. This documentary combines behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with the telescope's creators to tell the story of how it came to be.



On screen

FUN FACT
When the first PlayStation was released in 1994, there were eight games to play on it.



Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart

Battle evil with a classic duo

Ratchet & Clank: Rift Apart is an action-packed sci-fi platform adventure game. It was recently released for the PC after being a PlayStation 5 exclusive since 2021. It is part of the popular Ratchet & Clank franchise, which celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.

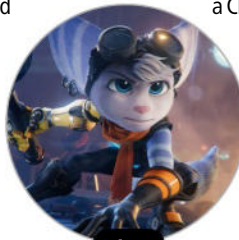
The stars of the franchise are Ratchet, a catlike alien called a Lombax, and Clank, a brave little robot who designs all kinds of tools and weapons. They travel the universe together and take on a different evil genius in every game.

Rift Apart starts with a parade to thank Ratchet, Clank, and some of their friends for saving the Polaris Galaxy. The celebration is cut short, though, when evil Dr. Nefarious crashes the party and steals the Dimensionator, a special device that can open up portals to other dimensions. During

the attack, the Dimensionator goes off, and Ratchet, Clank, and Dr. Nefarious get transported across space and time.

The group winds up in a universe where everything is just a bit different than in their own world. Ratchet and Clank meet a female Lombax named Rivet, whose attitude and skills are similar to Ratchet's, and she teams up with a Clank-like robot named Kit. They all have to defeat many enemies, including Dr. Nefarious and the more powerful Emperor Nefarious.

Luckily, Clank still has his ability to create wild blasters and amazing contraptions, which are always a highlight of the franchise's games. One of the new weapons, the Topiary Sprinkler, turns nearby enemies into a plant, while another, the NegaTron Collider, shoots a constant beam of purple energy that helps the heroes take out many opponents at once.



Rivet



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

KID STORIES PODCAST

kidstoriespodcast.com

Phil Bechtel, a former teacher, fills this show with fantasy tales that he writes himself. The epic adventures feature elements such as dangerous treasure hunts and magic dungeon escapes. Listeners like to send Bechtel their artwork and he gives them shout-outs on the show.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK



THE CUTTLEFISH BOT

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Cuttlefish

On the BBC TV show *Spy in the Ocean*, robotic cameras are disguised as animals in order to explore the ocean and capture footage of creatures in their natural habitats. In this video, you can see what happens when a fake cuttlefish (above left) communicates with real ones.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

LIL BEAT MAKER

muted.io/lil-beat-maker

Make your own beats with this easy-to-use online drum machine. It offers a colorful 16-step pattern for five different types of instruments, such as a kick drum or snare. Click on circles in the pattern, select different beats, then press play to see how it all sounds together.





OUR BOOK CLUB
PICK FOR AUGUST

No One Leaves the Castle

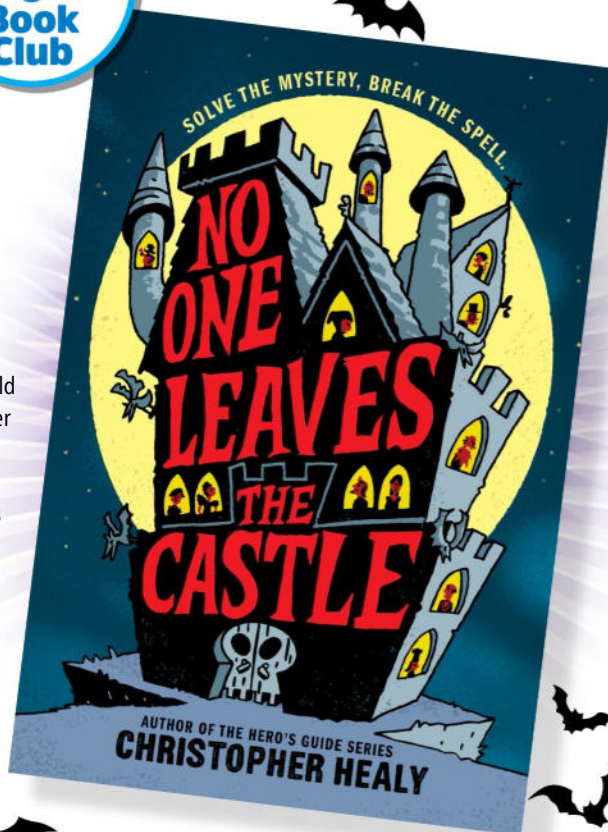
By Christopher Healy

(Walden Pond Press)

When a baron's priceless emerald heirloom goes missing, his butler hires the Lilac to track it down. The butler thinks the Lilac is a famous bounty hunter, but she's really the 14-year-old sister of Prince Charming. The Lilac locates a wizard who may have something to do with the crime. The heirloom is mysteriously returned, and everyone is invited to stay at the baron's mansion for dinner. Not long after, the heirloom disappears again and one of the dinner party guests turns up dead. There is a killer among them, and as if that weren't

enough, a magical spell has been cast on the castle, preventing anyone from leaving. The Lilac

knows she has to work fast to figure out which of the 12 suspects stole the heirloom and killed the guest. Is it the chef, the etiquette master, a baroness, the butler, or someone else? This mystery is chock-full of hidden agendas, twists, and red herrings (false clues), and it will keep you guessing until the last chapter. Funny dialogue and poetic verses from a bard supply a lot of laughs.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

A keep-you-guessing novel loaded with surprising twists, *No One Leaves the Castle* is fun to discuss with family and friends who have also read the book. Here are some questions to get the conversation started.

Who did you think the culprit was going to be and why?



throughout the story?

Did you like the voice of the narrator? Why or why not?

Did any clues throw you off the right track? If so, which ones?

Which character's secret surprised you the most and why?

What magical element did you think was the most clever?

How do you think the Lilac grows as a person

Why do you think the author included humor in the book?



JOIN THE WEEK JUNIOR'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Christopher Healy created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.



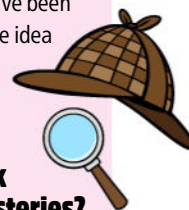
Ask the author



Christopher Healy has written best-selling fantasy books, like *The Hero's Guide to Saving Your Kingdom*. *The Week Junior* spoke to him about *No One Leaves the Castle*, which is his first mystery book.

What inspired this story?

I've always loved mysteries. They've been my favorite genre to read. I got the idea to write a whodunit that's set in the same fantasy world as my *Hero's Guide* series.



Was there a specific book that turned you on to mysteries?

When I was first learning to read, I couldn't get enough of the *Encyclopedia Brown* series. But it was probably *The Westing Game* by Ellen Raskin that cemented my preference for mysteries. It's my all-time favorite book because it has a lot of suspects and secrets.

Did you create a plot outline before you started writing?

Yes! I plotted out all the clues—and knew who the culprit was—before I started writing. Early on in my writing career, I didn't plan ahead, and I would write myself into a corner, which is hard to get out of.

About how long does it take you to complete a book?

It usually takes me a year, but I finished this one in nine months.

Do you get writer's block?

Everybody does. If you get stuck on what the next sentence should be, jump ahead and write something you want to happen later on. Then ask yourself what needs to happen to fill in the gaps.

Favorite carnival food?

Soft pretzels.

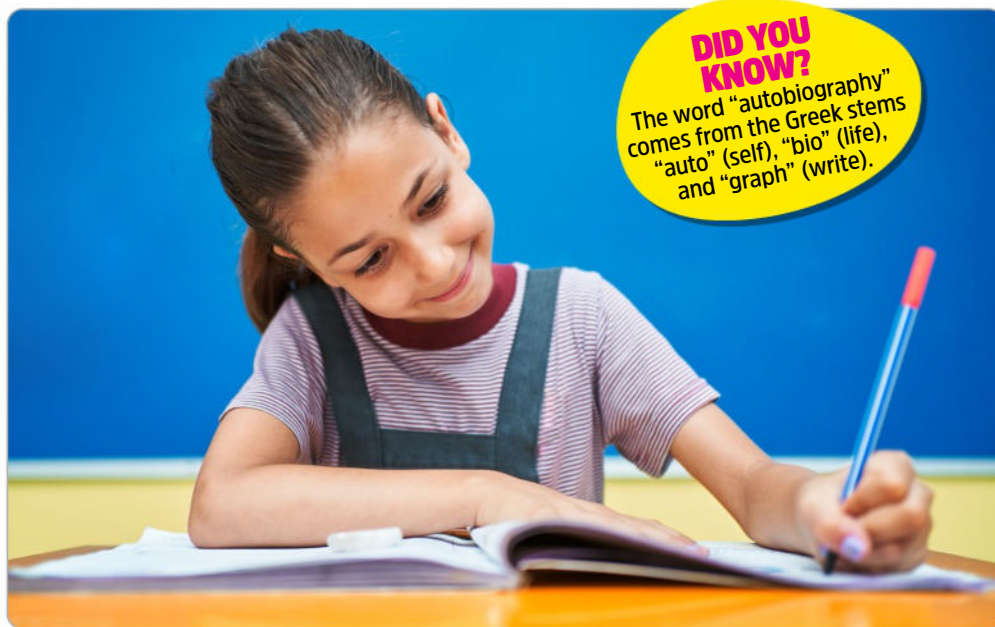
What is the most interesting job you've had?

I was once a zombie in a Haunted House during Halloween season.





How to...



DID YOU KNOW?

The word "autobiography" comes from the Greek stems "auto" (self), "bio" (life), and "graph" (write).

Write your autobiography

Tell the story of your life with this creative activity.

An autobiography is the story of a person's life, written by that person. Writing your autobiography can be a fun way to remember and record important events that have happened in your life and, if you choose, share them with others. Here's how to get started.

Brainstorm first

To get an idea of what to include in your autobiography, start by reading someone else's autobiography. (You can check out the options at right.) As you read, pay attention to the types of stories the author includes and how they tie the different events together so the reader can easily follow along. Next, start brainstorming some details you would want to include in your own autobiography. You can make a big list of important information about yourself—like where you were born and where you live—then add major life events or favorite memories. If you get stuck for ideas, scroll through old photos or ask a family member to relay stories of your childhood.

Create an outline

Before you start writing, make an outline of your story to help you stay organized. An autobiography is usually written in chronological order, meaning it would start when you were born and end with the present. This means your outline can be a timeline where you put your oldest memories first. Look at all

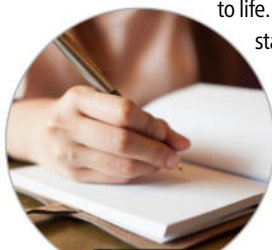
the memories you jotted down while brainstorming, and list them in chronological order. This will be the order you can use in your autobiography.

Write your draft

Once you have your outline, it's time to start writing a first draft. While your outline is more like a list, the autobiography should include fuller descriptions of the events in your life. You should write in the past tense and include interesting details to help bring your story to life. As you write the autobiography, you may start to see common themes. Many of the events you've included might focus on your friendships, for example, or how you've handled changes throughout your life. These common themes can help connect the various parts of your story. You can also include some reflections at the end about how you noticed these themes and what they mean to you.

Revise and share

When you're writing an autobiography, you may need to revise your writing until you are happy with the result. One thing that may help you make revisions is to read it out loud to yourself. As you read, ask yourself questions: Does this sound like me? Are there any extra words I don't need? Am I missing any key parts of my story? After you make any adjustments, you could ask a family member or friend to read your autobiography too.



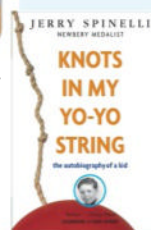
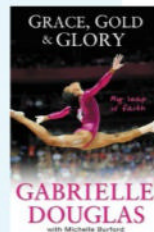
Fill out the details.

4 autobiographies to read this summer

One of these books can help you learn about interesting people and get inspired to write your own story.

Grace, Gold & Glory: My Leap of Faith

Gabrielle Douglas, a Black gymnast and Olympic gold medalist, writes about her childhood, her intense training, and the joy of being an Olympic champion.



Knots in My Yo-Yo String

Author Jerry Spinelli spent his childhood trying to keep everything tidy. A tangled yo-yo

string threatens his neat streak but changes his life.

March: Book One

John Lewis was a congressman and famous civil rights activist. One of a series of three, this autobiographical graphic novel tells the story of his childhood and a formative meeting he had with Martin Luther King Jr. as a teen.



Reaching for the Moon

In 1969, NASA's Apollo 11 mission put humans on the Moon. Behind that mission

was a team that included NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who overcame adversity as one of the few Black women in her field.



CLEAN UP YOUR FAMILY'S CAR

You can help get your family's ride squeaky-clean. Here's how.

- 1. Start on the inside.** Throw away any trash that's in the car, and take out and put away any items that don't belong there (like sweatshirts and cups). If you have a small portable vacuum cleaner, you can use that to clean dirt or crumbs off the floor. Take a damp rag and wipe down seats and surfaces.
- 2. Soap it up.** Once you're ready to move to the outside, fill a bucket with warm water and add a few squirts of car soap. (An adult can buy this at an auto supply store.) Use a soft sponge to wash the entire car, especially extra dirty spots like the tire rims.
- 3. Make it shine.** Take a hose and rinse off all the soap suds from top to bottom. Let the car dry for a few minutes. Then look it over and see if there are any spots you need to scrub and rinse again. Now is also a good time to use a spray glass cleaner and a microfiber cloth to wipe down the windows and the lights.



TASTY TRADITION
A BLT—bacon, lettuce, and tomato on bread—is one of the most popular sandwiches in the US.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the oven.

Build a salmon BLT sandwich

Ingredients

- 8 strips of bacon
- 1 pound skin-on salmon filet
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- Salt and ground pepper, to taste
- 8 slices of crusty bread, like ciabatta
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 4 large leaves of lettuce, such as Boston or Bibb
- 1 large tomato, cut in slices

Instructions

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400° F. Arrange bacon in a single layer on a rimmed baking sheet lined with foil. Bake on the lower oven rack for 20 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through, or until the bacon is browned and crisp.
- 2.** Remove bacon to a plate lined with a paper towel to drain, reserving the bacon fat on the baking sheet.
- 3.** Meanwhile, line another baking sheet with foil and set salmon in the center, skin side down. Drizzle the salmon with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake salmon on

the top rack until it's pink and cooked through and the fish flakes easily with a fork, 12 to 18 minutes.

- 4.** Use a large spatula to remove the salmon to a plate, leaving the skin behind on the baking sheet. Break the salmon into generous chunks and divide into 4 equal portions.
- 5.** Dip the bread slices in the reserved bacon fat, then transfer to the oven to toast until golden, about 5 minutes. Spread the mayonnaise on half of the bread slices. Layer the bacon, salmon, lettuce, and tomato slices on the toasted bread. Makes 4 sandwiches.



ECO TIP
OF THE WEEK

SAVE MORE PAPER WHEN YOU PRINT

Every year, about one billion trees' worth of paper is thrown away in the US. Even though trees are planted to replace the ones used to make paper, it's important to be mindful of how much paper you use to protect the natural resources trees offer. There are several ways you can save paper when you print from a computer. First, before you print, preview what the document will look like on paper. This way, you can be sure not to print pages you don't need. Check for spelling errors or other corrections before you print so you can avoid having to print something more than once. Finally, print on both sides of the paper to reduce the amount of paper you use.

Print only the pages you need.





Puzzles



Keyword crossword

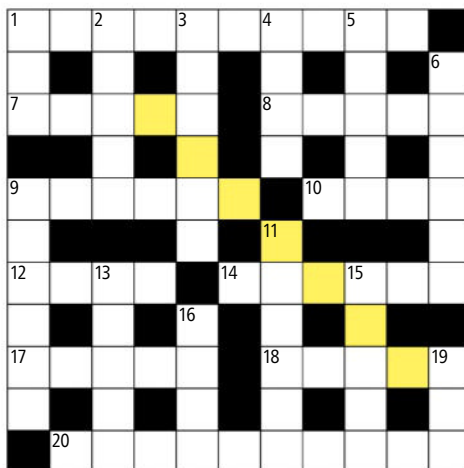
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- 1 Fancy overhead lighting fixture
- 7 Highway's sloped entrances and exits
- 8 Answer that's between yes and no
- 9 Planet with rings and more than 100 moons
- 10 Five-pointed shape
- 12 ___ as pie (very simple)
- 14 It's measured by a bathroom scale
- 17 Heavy iron block used for metalworking
- 18 Clothing worn by Belle or Alice
- 20 Period of time for a couple leading up to their wedding

DOWN

- 1 Parking lot sight
- 2 ___ ONE (phrase on a ticket)
- 3 Area with very little rain or vegetation
- 4 Sour green fruit
- 5 Country with a huge statue of the Sphinx
- 6 Information that's not meant to be widely known
- 9 Playground equipment that requires two people
- 11 Important part for a sewing machine
- 13 In Roman numerals, it's represented as VII
- 15 Animals known as a gaggle when they are on the ground
- 16 Tiny hopping, biting insect
- 19 Common dog command



Keyword question: What do engineers place on the pendulums inside Big Ben's tower to slow down the clock if it is running slightly fast?



CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of characters who can fly, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded P. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

□ □ □ □ □

K H Y L E

□ □ P □ □ □ □ □

C H X J U Y W B

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

S E U K R E S K J Y E U M

P □ □ □ □ P □ □ □

X J M J U X W B

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

ROUND ONE GO STOP YOUR
TURN SHOPPING WAIT MERRY

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes.

4	5	1	4	2
2	3	5	3	1
5	3	4	1	2
4	2	5	5	3
2	1	4	1	3

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a polar bear family appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





A great day
for goldens

Dog lovers' golden opportunity

Every five years, Scotland hosts a gathering that is as good as gold. In 1868, a man created a new breed of hunting dog to handle the tough terrain of the Scottish Highlands: the golden retriever. Now dogs and owners regularly meet up to celebrate the breed at the site where the first golden retriever puppies were born. This year, 488 dogs from at least 12 countries gathered at the largest event yet. One dog owner who attended said, "You can't have a bad day when there's 500 golden retrievers around you."



Giddyup!

Taking toy horses for a ride

In Seinäjoki, Finland, people with an unusual pastime strutted their stuff at the Hobby Horse Championships. Competitors were there to "ride" a hobby horse—a stuffed horse head on a stick—in events real horses compete in, such as show jumping and western riding. In show jumping, contestants leap over 5-foot-tall fences while balancing the hobby horse between their legs. "It's both hilarious and fascinating to watch," one observer wrote.



All this could be
yours...for now.

Packing light with clothes for rent

Deciding which clothes to pack for a vacation can be a long and boring chore. Japan Airlines has just made it easier with "Any Wear, Anywhere." The new service lets customers rent up to nine items of pre-owned clothing to wear while they visit Japan. No need to check a bag—travelers can simply pay for a combination of tops, bottoms, and outerwear to be delivered to their hotels. Bonus: The plane is lighter without all the luggage, which is better for the planet.

Real or
fake?



Is there an otter
robber afoot?

Renegade otter steals surfboards

A swashbuckling sea otter is terrorizing the California coast. The thieving critter, a 5-year-old female known to authorities as Otter 841, has been climbing onto people's surfboards and sinking her teeth into them. One teen surfer let go of his board and watched as 841 commandeered it. "The otter was shredding, caught a couple of nice waves," he said. Local officials are pursuing 841, who is still on the lam. Do you think this story is real, or are you in otter disbelief?*

*Real! Experts are concerned for the safety of beachgoers and the otter, who belongs to an endangered species. They hope to capture 841 and bring her to a zoo or aquarium. But so far, said one, "she's been quite talented at evading us."



Your turn

Editor's note

It's been fun to get caught up in all the excitement about movies in America right now. As we report on page 21, the newly released *Barbie* movie is smashing box-office records for ticket sales and has also inspired pink clothing, a pink drink, and even a home design show. (I dressed in pink to see the film. How about you?) The new *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movie, featured on this week's cover and in our article on page 20, is also causing a commotion. The turtles first appeared in a comic book in 1984, and it's great to see them still going strong. If you watch either or both of these films, or any other movie this summer, we'd love to know your opinion. Tell us at hello@theweekjunior.com. You can also send us a review of any film you think other kids your age would enjoy, whether it's recent or not. We might publish it in our Reader Recommends column, which appears every week on page 21.

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



Swimming with sea creatures

“We snorkeled in Cancun, Mexico, for the first time and will always cherish the experience because we were in the ocean alongside sea creatures. We were eager to know what we would encounter. We saw many fish, sea turtles, and rays and even swam through a cenote (sinkhole) and one of the largest coral reef barriers. We both had fun and want to learn more about life underwater. You don't see this in a pool. So in your recent Big Debate, we both vote that beaches are better than swimming pools!”

Tejas, 8, and
Rohan, 12, Texas



RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What has a tail and a head but no body in between?
A coin

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



Imagination Foundation

This organization encourages children to use their imagination. Its founding in 2012 was inspired by a 9-year-old named Caine who used cardboard to create his own arcade games. It plans global cardboard challenges to see who can make the most creative items and helps people start creativity chapters in their communities. There are more than 150 chapters in 20 countries. Find out more at imagination.org.



YOUR COMICS

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a comic! If you would like to create one to send to us, get the form at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.



Claire, 9, California

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I brought *The Week Junior* to my grandparents' house in South Korea because I love to read it." **Samuel, 9, California**

"I was so excited to see the story on *Haru, Zombie Dog Hero* because I have the book! I started reading it right away after I saw the article in *The Week Junior*!" **Paige, 11, New Jersey**



"I enjoyed reading *The Week Junior* by the Old Bridge ('Stari Most') in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a UNESCO World Heritage Site." **Rory, 9, Massachusetts**



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Sampl**

School: **Immaculate Conception of Dardenne**

"Mrs. Sampl is the best 5th grade ELA teacher ever! She always keeps the class engaged and focused. We learn a lot and have a ton of fun! Once, she rapped about helping verbs in front of the entire class. Mrs. Sampl is the coolest teacher!"

Sydney, 11, Missouri

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Keyword answer: pennies

Code cracker

Dumbo
Superman
Lord Voldemort
Peter Pan

Three for all
one-stop shopping
wait your turn
merry-go-round



4	5	1	4	2
2	3	5	3	1
5	3	4	1	2
4	2	5	5	3
2	1	4	1	3



Quiz answers (from page 30)

1 Beanie Von Weenie 2 a) Emerald 3 True 4 a) 1948 5 Wilson's little penguin
6 b) *Top Chef* 7 False. They are voiced by teenagers. 8 c) The UK 9 Bottlenose dolphins
10 b) Dr. Nefarious 11 False. It is being planned in Sweden. 12 c) United 13 True
14 b) Katie Ledecky 15 Golden retrievers

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of the dachshund who recently won the title of "Fastest Wiener Dog in the West"?

2 The book *No One Leaves the Castle* involves a stolen heirloom made with what kind of jewel?

a) Emerald b) Ruby c) Sapphire

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Southern cassowaries can jump up to seven feet in the air.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In what year was NASCAR founded?

a) 1948 b) 1949 c) 1959

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 What is the name of the extinct species of penguin identified in New Zealand?

6 Kristen Kish is set to be the next host of what cooking competition show?

a) *Chopped* b) *Top Chef* c) *Pressure Cooker*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? In the movie *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*, the turtles are voiced by adults.

True ☐ False ☐

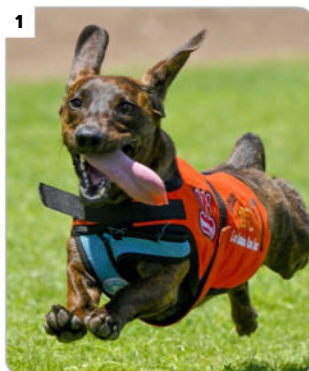
8 In what country will the 2024 Paralympics torch be lit?

a) France b) Greece c) The UK

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.



9 What type of dolphin was found to use "baby talk" near their calves?

10 In the video game *Ratchet and Clank: Rift Apart*, who steals the Dimensionator?

a) Dr. Calamitous b) Dr. Nefarious

c) Dr. Villainous

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 True or false? Construction of a wooden city is being planned in Switzerland.

True ☐ False ☐

12 Which airline will be the first to add Braille to signs on its planes?

a) American b) Delta c) United

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? The *Barbie* movie had the biggest opening weekend of any movie in 2023.

True ☐ False ☐

14 Who broke a world record held by Michael Phelps for the most gold medals at the Swimming World Championships?

a) Ryan Murphy b) Katie Ledecky

c) Alex Walsh

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Nearly 500 of what kind of dog gathered with their owners in Scotland to celebrate the breed's anniversary?

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This summer, get lost in a good read



Reading sparks a lifetime love of learning, gets kids on track for success, and helps them identify and follow their passions. There are stories in *The Week Junior* that speak to every child and inspire them to keep reading.

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**STUNNING
LANDSCAPE**

Iceland's Kirkjufellsfoss waterfall flows into a river that runs by the Kirkjufell mountain, famous for being shaped like a witch's hat.